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PART I.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CHIEF SECRETARIAT

REVIEWING THE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT OF THE BANGALORE CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FOR 1926-27.

READ—

Letter No. A1. 93, dated the 19th March 1928, from the Municipal Commissioner, Bangalore City, forwarding an advance copy of the Administration Report of the City Municipal Council for the year 1926-27.

Letter No. Cl. 713—27-28, dated the 17—29th May 1928, from the same Officer, forwarding a copy of the Final Report as adopted by the Council.

ORDER NO. L. 8815-18—ML. 153-27-54, DATED 15TH JUNE 1928.

The report was due on the 15th October 1927, but was forwarded after a delay of seven months.

Constitution of the Municipal Council and Election.—The constitution and the strength of the Council remained the same as in the previous year and no elections were held during the year. Khan Bahadur Mahomed Abbas Khan continued to be the President of the Council. Mr. B. T. Kesava Iyengar, B.A., was the Municipal Commissioner up to 18th November 1926, when he was transferred to Shimoga as Deputy Commissioner. Mr. T. Govinda Rao succeeded him as Municipal Commissioner and took charge of the office on the 10th December 1926, and continued to be the Commissioner.

Meeting and Attendance.—There were 74 meetings of the Council in all, of which 12 were ordinary, 52 adjourned and 10 special. The Managing Committee and the City Improvement Committee are reported to have met at frequent intervals.

Finance.—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 7,05,611 inclusive of investments and a cash balance of Rs. 58,111. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 9,45,069 of which Rs. 6,43,579 represented the normal income. The total expenditure under all heads amounted to Rs. 9,49,279. This included certain special items as noted below:—

	Rs.
1. City Improvement Works	1,22,994
2. Original Works	38,597
3. Compensation for properties acquired	40,670
4. Public Debt	1,65,121

The balance at the credit of the Municipality at the close of the year was Rs. 7,16,042 against Rs. 7,05,611 in the previous year.

Demand, Collection and Balance.—Including a sum of Rs. 91,589 which remained in arrears at the beginning of the year, the demand under all heads for the year amounted to Rs. 10,95,551 against Rs. 8,42,359 in the previous year. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 9,45,829 was collected and a sum of Rs. 1,933 was written off the accounts leaving a balance of Rs. 1,47,789 at the close of the year.

The income from Octroi excluding refunds, amounted to Rs. 1,73,097 against Rs. 1,64,685 in the previous year.

The demand "under assessed taxes" shows an increase of Rs. 15,833 over the previous year's figure, due mainly to the enhancement of the general water rate from 3 per cent to 4½ per cent. But the actual amount collected was Rs. 2,34,057, i. e., about Rs. 3,000 less than in the year 1925-26. The percentage of total collection of assessed taxes to total demand works out to 70, and that of current collection to current demand to 73, against 76 per cent and 80 per cent respectively during the year before. The fall in collection is attributed to adverse seasonal conditions, depression of trade, etc.

The total revenue was collected departmentally as in the previous year. The amount received during the year, after deducting the cost of establishment, contingencies, etc., was Rs. 51,616 against Rs. 51,998 in the previous year. Considering that enhanced rates of toll introduced with effect from 1st September 1925 were in operation throughout the year under review, it was reasonable to look for a substantial increase of revenue under this head. The absence of any such increase is said to be due to the fact that a smaller number of carts entered the City owing to failure of rains and consequent slackness of agricultural operations during the year. The Municipal Council, in their resolution on the administration report have referred to "want of sufficient supervision in the management of tolls resulting in a decrease of collections." The Council would do well to go into the matter more closely and satisfy themselves that there is no room for leakage under the present arrangements for the collection of this item of revenue.

The total amount realised during the year on account of sale of lands was Rs. 35,080 against Rs. 22,562 in the previous year. At the beginning of the year, there remained a balance of Rs. 37,687 to be recovered from the purchasers of sites in the Visveswarapuram Extension. Sites of the value of Rs. 12,640 were sold during the year. The total amount collected was Rs. 14,536 leaving a balance of Rs. 23,151.

Arrears to be collected towards the rent of shops in the Market are heavy and show a tendency to increase.

Public Works.—The amount allotted for Public Works to be executed by the Municipal Engineer was Rs. 2,15,340 as against Rs. 1,62,200 in the previous year. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 1,88,936 was spent, resulting in a lapse of 8 per cent of the grant as against 2 per cent in the previous year. The improvement of roads and road crossings received considerable attention during the year. In this connection mention may be made of the (1) Post Office and Sheshadri Roads, (2) Sri Krishnarajendra, Sri Narasimharaja and Kantharaj Circles. The widening of the Mysore Road was completed. The Avenue road was tarred to a length of 3½ furlongs as an experimental measure. Drains to a length of about 4,553 feet were newly constructed at a cost of Rs. 7,756. Many of the drains in the City were improved by providing cement concrete 'U' shape pipes.

Land Acquisition Work.—The land acquisition work which had hitherto been conducted by the Personal Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, was transferred to

the Municipal Commissioner and a sum of Rs. 40,670 was paid as compensation for properties acquired by the Municipality.

Water Supply.—Although the Hessarghatta tank received a fairly good supply, the situation in some of the higher parts of the City and Extensions which had suffered during the period of water scarcity, did not materially improve. The supply of unfiltered water to Cubbonpet, Gowdanpet, Balepet, and Chamarajpet was continued as before through electric motors and pumps fitted up to wells. Several of the incomplete works of the previous year were completed and four tube wells were sunk in Basavangudi, where water scarcity was very keenly felt. The total expenditure under well works during the year was Rs. 19,174.

City Improvement Works.—The total allotment for the year of report was Rs. 2,59,250 of which a sum of Rs. 1,40,876 was spent during the year against Rs. 1,32,352 in the previous year. Among the more important works carried out during the year may be mentioned:—

1. Frontage of the New-Market (completed).
2. Construction of grain Bazaar.
3. Construction of shops in Sethu Rao's street.
4. Construction of Mutton and Fish Stalls.
5. Completion of sewage pipe line in Visvesvarapuram Extension.
6. Laying out Sri Narasimharaja Road.

Public Safety.—The total number of electric lights at the end of the year was 1,796 against 1,757 at the end of the previous year. Ornamental lights were installed in the Cubbon Park, Sri Krishnarajendra Circle and on the Post Office Road, and in the Market Square.

Public Health and Sanitation.—Public Health was generally good throughout the year. There were 30 attacks and 26 deaths from plague and 808 anti-plague inoculations were performed during the year as against nil in the previous year. There were 3 attacks and 2 deaths from small-pox. The number of vaccinations performed was 6,470 against 6,024 in the previous year. There was no Cholera or Influenza. Four thousand five hundred twenty-seven births were registered as against 4,478 last year and the number of deaths was 3,222 against 3,302 in the previous year. There was a slight decrease in the infantile mortality.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—Eight Midwives were employed as in the previous year and the number of labour cases conducted by them was 1,353 against 1,382 of the previous year. Exhibitions and Baby Shows were held at 5 centres during the National Baby Week.

Public Instruction.—Primary Education was under the direct management of the Education Committee of the Municipal Council. During the year under report, the scheme for the Medical Inspection of Primary School pupils was given effect to and the control of the Urdu Primary Schools for boys and girls was taken up by the Council. There were in all 75 institutions under the control of the Municipality. Leaving out of consideration, the Urdu Primary Schools which were lately added to the number under control, the total strength of the remaining 62 schools was 7,343 against 7,744 in the previous year. The special school for the Deaf and the Dumb was continued to be maintained exclusively from Municipal Funds.

The responsibility for the successful working out of the scheme of compulsory Education was also transferred to the Municipality in Government Order No. E. 4184-86—Edn. 107-25-17, dated the 9th February 1927 as a result of which the Superintendent of Municipal Schools was appointed as Attendance Officer of the City.

Audit of Accounts.—The accounts were audited by two auditors of the Comptroller's Office during the year. It is reported that the audit of Revenue Accounts has also been taken up.

General.—In spite of some shortcomings referred to above, Government note that the Municipal Council carried on their work during the year smoothly and, on the whole, satisfactorily. Special attention was paid to the improvement of roads and provision of water supply to certain parts of the City. The large number of Council and Committee meetings which the President and some of the Councillors attended shows commendable readiness on their part to give freely of their time to public work. The financial position of the Municipality requires closer attention and Government are glad to note that the Municipal Council have recently appointed a special committee to examine this question.

N. MADHAVA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.